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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 10/789,110 | 02/26/2004 | Naroun Suon | 1001.1286103 | 7590 |
| 28075 | 7590 | 12/29/2004 | | EXAMINER |
| CROMPTON, SEAGER & TUFTE, LLC 1221 NICOLLET AVENUE SUITE 800 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55403-2420 | | | | MENDOZA, MICHAEL G |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 3731 | |

DATE MAILED: 12/29/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| | 10/789,110 | SUON ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Michael G. Mendoza | 3731 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 April 2004.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 29-52 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 29-52 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5/7/2004.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ .
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: ____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Double Patenting

1. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

2. Claims 29-35 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 18-24 of U.S. Patent No. 6726621. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the subject matter claimed in the instant application is fully disclosed in the patent and is covered by the patent since the patent and the application are claiming common subject matter, as follows: advancing a retrieval catheter (tubular sheath) into a vascular region adjacent a filter (vena cava filter); advancing an elongate tubular member (shaft) through the retrieval catheter, advancing a retrieval member (means for retrieving); and retracting the retrieval member within the tubular member; wherein the retrieval member comprises a wire having a loop for engaging a hub including a hook; wherein the retrieval member includes a plurality of elongate members (distal members); the step of advancing a second tubular member

over the catheter so as to dispose the filer with the second tubular member (engaging a stabilizing shaft).

3. Claims 36-52 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 18-24 of U.S. Patent No. 6726621. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the application claim merely adds a feature absent from the patent claim.

4. The difference between Claim 1 of the instant application and claim 18 of the Patent is the plurality of arms including a barb at a proximal end. However, it is well known in the art of blood vessel filters to include bards, hooks or anchors as evidenced by Patents 4817600, 5152777, 5626605, and 6569183. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to use a filter that includes bards to secure the filter in a vessel to prevent movement of the filter.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

6. Claims 29-31, 33-28, 40-46, and 48-52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Ostrovsky et al. 6447530.

7. Ostrovsky et al. teaches a method for retrieving a vena cava filter from a blood vessel comprising the steps of: providing a vena cava filter retrieval device, the device

including a tubular sheath 124, a shaft slidable within the sheath (figs. 20 & 21), and means for retrieving a filtering device attached to the shaft 122; advancing the retrieval device through a blood vessel to a location adjacent a vena cava filter, the vena cava filter including a hub and a plurality of arms (62 & 78) extending from the hub; extending the shaft out from a distal end of the sheath so that the means for retrieving a filtering device engages the hub; and retracting the filter into the sheath; wherein means for retrieving a filtering device includes a wire loop 122; wherein the hub includes a hook 112; and wherein the extending the shaft out from a distal end of the sheath so that the means for retrieving a filtering device engages the hub includes engaging the wire loop with the hook (figs. 20 & 21); wherein the step of retracting the filter into the sheath includes retracting the arms 62 of the filter into the sheath and then retracting the hub into the sheath; wherein the step of retracting the filter into the sheath includes retracting the hub into the sheath and then retracting the arms 78 of the filter into the sheath; and the step of engaging a stabilizing shaft with the filter (figs 33-35); and wherein each arm includes a barb.

Fig. 20

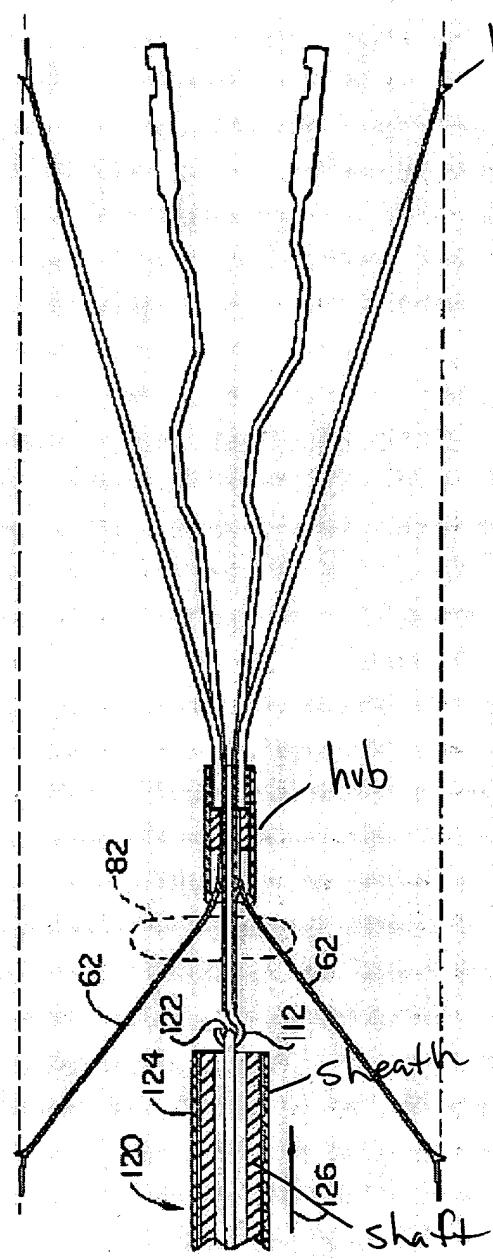
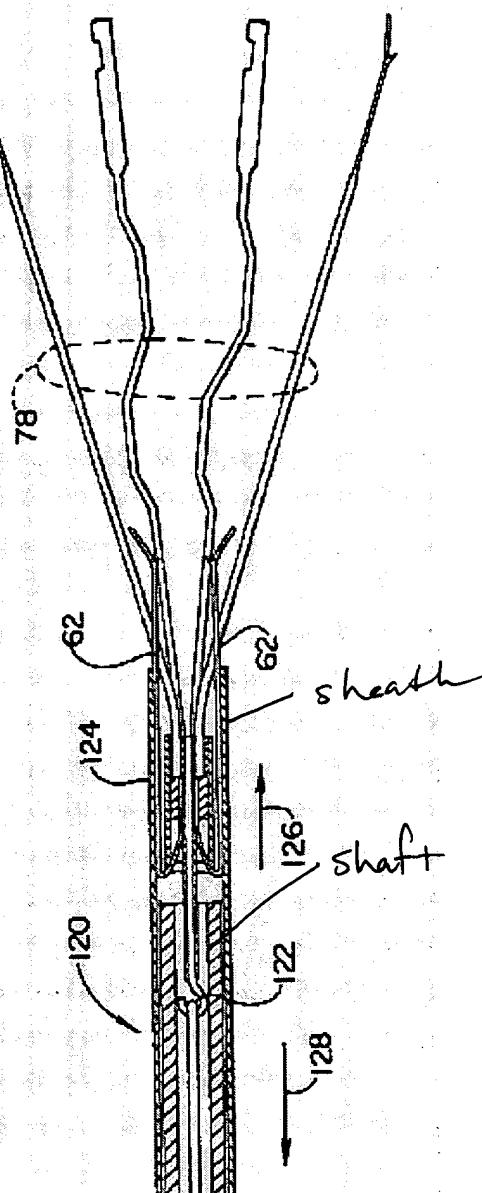


Fig. 21



Contacts

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael G. Mendoza whose telephone number is (571) 272-4698. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Dawson can be reached on (571) 272-4694. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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MM

*gk*  
GLENN K. DAWSON  
PRIMARY EXAMINER